

# PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

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THREEPENCE

## THE CHURCH'S OPPORTUNITY

Lost leadership must be regained—DONALD SOPER

**A**N effective peace group in the Church must have a precise, clear-cut objective and must, at the earliest possible moment, give to those invited to join it a good idea of what they will be expected to do.

So said Dr. Soper, the well-known radio preacher and superintendent of the West London Mission at Kingsway Hall, to members of the Newcastle-on-Tyne Group, Fellowship of Reconciliation, last Thursday.

He was commenting on the lessening of enthusiasm in the peace movement within the Church.

"I believe it is true," he said, "that our peace groups will only be successful if they are more theological than they are at present—I mean knowing whence the movement springs."

He thought a pacifist should be a man who looked as though he could be a good soldier, just as a successful parson should be a man who looked as though he had committed many sins" (laughter).

### Church's leadership lost in war

Dr. Soper said there was today a dearth of spiritual leadership and what leadership did exist earned his disgust. The man in the street was no longer convinced that Christianity was on the way out or that scientific humanism was taking the place of Christianity.

The Church, he said, had a good opportunity today of re-establishing the good leadership that was lost in the two wars.

The only practical question in the war today was that of peace and war—all others were purely academic.

He thought it was deplorable that so many ministers, if tackled, said they were pacifists, and then retired behind a smoke screen saying it was not their job to discuss the matter as they had their flock to feed!

### No arguments left

Speaking later to a capacity audience at the Central Methodist Church, Dr. Soper said there were too many people today living in cloud cuckoo land.

They pretended the situation was not so bad as it really was, but with scientists themselves becoming terrified of their own work, he thought it was time he, at any rate, became terrified.

We now lived in an age in which we had proven up to the hilt that the problems we wanted to solve were not solved by war. And after 25 years of talking on Tower Hill, he knew there were no arguments to the contrary left.

The principle of conscription was a denial of the principle of democracy, and he sympathised with those at the other side of the Iron Curtain who thought we were hypocrites.

Spiritual issues were regarded by many people as irrelevant, but those were people who did not worship God, and did not understand the word "spiritual."

Christianity was 99 per cent. obedience to the will of God. But if, animated by the love and power of God we took up our cross, we should create a new climate in which evil things would not be able to breathe.

They needed that preparation if they were to preach peace. They needed humility and sympathetic understanding.

In that connection he recalled his own "shame after Dunkirk," when on Tower Hill, he helped a heckler to make a fool of himself. "I felt proud of myself," he said, "until after the meeting, the heckler asked me how I would have felt if I had lost my only son at Dunkirk, as he had a week before."

### Tea will be ready!

There was only room for one Government in God's world. He was committed to that Government.

He added, amid laughter—"I won't tell you which way I voted at the Election, but I think the majority might have been a bit larger."

The only arguments generally heard today in favour of the peace and war issue were those about the necessity for armaments. As for the argument about the necessity for armaments, Dr. Soper brought further laughter when he said that if the Russians were to invade the country he was sure his Mission would be ready to make tea for them when they arrived.

## MP's DISCUSS RECRUITING FAILURE Socialism & Militarism — the wrong mixture

"We are in a vicious circle, of fear begetting armaments and armaments begetting fear. The world is waiting for bold leadership, which no other country can give."—E. W. Moeran, MP.

**P**ACIFIST protests from the Labour back-benches, as well as undiluted militarism from both sides, were fully expressed in last Monday's debate on the Army Estimates. The failure of the recruiting campaign was again admitted.

Among suggested remedies were the recruiting of a Foreign Legion from European sources, the raising of soldiers' pay to civil levels, and more wearing of scarlet tunics on the grounds that the girls simply love them and the guardsmen love the girls.

Hon. Members did not, however, question the efficacy of the last-named proposal should the girls themselves adopt similar glamorous vestments and the female of the species become as uniform as the male, which is not improbable now that women are to be enrolled in the fighting forces and can aspire to the title of Brigadier-General.

### What price "re-education" now?

During the debate Mr. Paget suggested that as they couldn't get the recruits in England for a regular army, they might use those "men in Europe of first-class fighting material who would be only too anxious to volunteer if given a chance."

This led Emrys Hughes to ask—"Ex-Nazis?"

Mr. Paget replied that he did not mind in the least. Under a totalitarian government, he said, the ordinary man in the street had perforce to follow the politics of that government, and it was nonsense to talk about ex-Nazis as about ex-Communists.

This comment throws interesting light on the value of "the re-education of Germany," since now it appears that the Germans-in-the-street were never Nazis after all.

It drew the further question from Emrys Hughes: "Will my hon. and learned Friend tell me what the last war was about?"

"On another occasion, perhaps," replied Mr. Paget.

### Why say "defence"?

Rhys Davies said it was a strange thing about the vocabulary of the military class in every country that they always talked of "defence."

Why, he asked, did they misuse the English language in that way when in fact what they were doing was preparing for another war?

If he had his way he would say to the military class, "Here is so much money for you to spend; do your best with that sum; it is all you will get." Until governments adopted that method they would never stop the appetite of the military machine.

It was a new form of Socialism, he said, for Labour Members to support conscription.

## WAR & CONSCRIPTION CAUSE VIOLENT CRIME

—say MP's

**N**OTICE has been given of an amendment to Mr. John Hay's proposed Motion for the re-introduction of corporal punishment for crimes of violence.

The amendment, opposing the re-introduction, says:—

"Such crimes are in part the direct result of evil influences and wars when it is regarded as heroic and patriotic to kill as many human beings as possible when described as enemies; in part also the result of training millions of the present generation of young men for similar purposes; it (the amendment), therefore, rejects the assumption that corporal punishment, based on the principle of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, which has been tried throughout the centuries and ignominiously failed, would safeguard modern society from any type of criminal."

The signatories to the amendment are: Rhys Davies, Fenner Brockway, J. Paton, Emrys Hughes, James Hudson, J. Rankin, David Thomas, K. G. McGee, E. Fernyhough, Richard Winterbottom, Thomas Brooks, R. W. Sorensen, R. Morley, George Jeger, Mr. Stephen Davies, Mrs. Braddock, Peter Freeman, John Lewis, Sydney Silverman, W. E. Padley, David Williams, J. Carmichael, V. Yates, J. D. Murray, Elwyn Jones, Charles Hale, Fred Longden, Goronwy Roberts.

If those who stood on public platforms 30 or 40 years ago had made speeches on the lines uttered by Labour MP's that day, there would not have been a Labour Party today and no Labour Government.

A member had quoted Mr. Baldwin as having said our frontier was on the Rhine. According to speeches heard that day our frontier had been pushed from the Rhine to the Danube and he supposed would soon reach the Volga.

### Re deadly females

Referring to the report that women were to be enrolled into the fighting forces and that one of them was to be called a Brigadier-General, he asked whether there was anything to prevent one of the new women soldiers becoming a field-marshal.

Mr. Michael-Stewart, Under Secretary for War: At present there is a limitation governed by the terms of the announcement, but who am I to set limits to the future?

Concluding, Rhys Davies said he was proud to stand there that night having been elected 9 times by the people of Westhoughton because he advocated the principles laid down in the Sernon on the Mount.

### Arms or houses?

Emrys Hughes compared the rising cost of arms with the needs of Scottish housing. Last year we spent £15 per head of the population on defence.

This year he estimated that a man with a wife and three children who might not have a home to defend because of over-crowding, might have to find out of his weekly wage £1 8s. for so-called defence.

As long as the Labour Government were content to carry on where the Leader of the Opposition left off, and talk in the old obsolete military terminology while trying to get Socialism at the same time, they were on the road to failure.

## Gaol and fine for two peace work volunteers

**T**WO members of the Friends Ambulance Unit International Service came before Portsmouth Magistrates last week charged with failing, as conscripts, to report for medical examination.

They were John Fairfax (19), sentenced to three months imprisonment and Robert Mills (21), fined £10.

Mills stated he had been a Cambridge student and became a pacifist three years ago, after he had registered for National Service, reports the Portsmouth Evening News.

He had tried to join the RAMC but was told he had little chance. He did not want to carry arms.

Mr. L. G. Groves, for the Ministry of Labour, said in the case of Fairfax that he was ordered to attend a medical board on Feb. 2. He failed to do so sending his papers back with a letter stating he found it "impossible" to be examined.

In December last year, Fairfax was fined £10 for a similar offence said Mr. Groves. Fairfax told the Court he had nothing to say.

Mills, said Mr. Groves, registered in 1946 and was deferred. In May 1949, he registered as a conscientious objector. In July, 1949, a local tribunal ordered his name to be removed from the CO register. Ordered to report for a medical on January 11, he returned his papers, saying he was a pacifist.

Italian student resists call-up—page five.

## TOOK PEACE POSTER INTO ATOM PLANT

**G**UARDS at the Oakridge (USA) atom plant were amazed when James Otsuka, a member of the tax-refusing group of American pacifists paraded through the elaborately protected plant with a poster "Don't work on the atom bomb—Strike!"

When guards pounced on Otsuka and asked how he got in, he replied: "By bus." A check-up revealed that he had come in during the rush-hour, reports the News Chronicle.

James Otsuka's release from Ashland Penitentiary where he served a 90 day's sentence for refusing to pay income-tax for war-preparations was reported in Peace News on Feb. 24.

## ★ Peace Demonstration ★

CENTRAL HALL  
WESTMINSTER

MONDAY, MARCH 27

8 p.m.

Chair: VERA BRITTAIN

Speakers:

RHYS DAVIES, M.P.  
EMRYS HUGHES, M.P.  
LEAH MANNING  
STUART MORRIS  
SYBIL MORRISON  
MICHAEL TIPPETT

Admission  
Free

Organ  
7.30 p.m.

Some Reserved  
Seats 2s. 6d.

BUFFET and BOOKSTALL FROM 6.30 p.m.

Organised by:

PEACE PLEDGE UNION

Dick Sheppard House

6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1

WAR — WE SAY "NO"



## INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ARE BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

AN interesting development of the International and Educational work of the Society of Friends (Quakers) is the introduction of the "International Seminar."

In the summer of 1949 young men and women between the ages of 20 and 35 met together for periods of three to four weeks for the discussion of world problems. They were drawn from many countries, and met in small groups of about 30 in quiet surroundings at Geneva, Le Chambon (France), Heppenheim (Germany), Vienna, Vierumaki (Finland), and at ten places in the USA.

The underlying purpose of the Seminar is the building of a peaceful world through the creation of friendship and understanding, overcoming barriers of nationality, race and culture. Their members share ideas, experience and information.

They discuss international problems which are of common interest to all the nationalities represented, such for instance as abolition of tariff barriers, European economic union, imperialism, and colonisation, promotion of basic human freedom and rights, the United Nations, world parliamentary government, world citizenship, nationalism and military security.

Each group contains leaders from the field of politics, economics, history, philosophy, law, sociology. But the impetus of the seminar comes from the group itself, not from the leaders. Most of the leaders do not give lectures, but merge themselves into the group, introducing the topics and guiding the discussions.

Candidates seeking admission to one of the Seminars should be between the age of 20 and 35, should speak fluently one of the languages used at the Seminar—usually English, French, and German, and should have had at least two years of University study or equivalent practical experience.

Those who are able to do so are asked to pay for their own transportation, food and lodging—from six to ten Swiss francs a day—but the Friends are willing to pay the expenses of those who are unable to do so. Men and women of all nationalities are invited to apply, and should write to: The Quaker Service, 94 Rue de Lausanne, Geneva, Switzerland.

O.B.

### Christian Evangelism and the Pacifist Issue

Dr. Belden's article which appeared under this title in Peace News on March 3 is now available in leaflet form from Peace News Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4, or from Dr. Belden. Price 2s. 100; 8s. 6d. 500; 16s. 1,000.

## DEFENCE

### How?

#### THIS WAY?

By an act of great statesmanship the relations between India and Britain have been transformed from bitter enmity into goodwill and friendship.

Had we pursued a policy of "what we have held" violence would have spread and a state of war would almost certainly have developed. We have defended this. There has been no war. Thousands of lives have been saved. No war casualties have occurred.

What has been done in India can be done elsewhere. A policy of friendship and mutual help is the sure way of defence against the death of war.

#### OR THIS?

We are spending over two million pounds a day on armed forces.

The immense destructive power being built up stimulates fear in other countries and is met by an increase in their arms which in turn increases our feeling of insecurity. Thus a competitive race in armaments is developing, and our foreign policy becomes more and more based on mistrust and fear.

A race in armaments has always ended in war. This one will if it is not checked. And the destruction and loss of life, with the new atomic and other weapons, will be immeasurable.

There is no defence in arms.

## YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS

Which kind of Policy do You Support?

This statement has been printed in leaflet form by the Northern Friends Peace Board, Clifford Street, York, Price 2s. 100.

## Germans Lukewarm to New Militarism

By ROBERT ROOT

Executive Editor, World Interpreter

A BRITISH visitor stood at a graveside in Berlin. There, he was told, lay the only man who had refused to go to war for Hitler. And he had been shot.

But after the little memorial service, a young German stepped up. He put two photographs on the grave and said, "This was not the only unknown soldier for peace." And he surprised the group by telling how two of his friends, also war resisters, had been shot too. Moreover, when Hitler's concentration camps were opened, many of the prisoners proved to be German "objectors" against the Nazi war effort.

In present-day Germany, an anti-militarist can hope for better treatment. The new Bonn Constitution states "nobody shall be forced against his conscience to serve with arms."

Civil liberties critics point out that, since it appears in the article on religious freedom, this clause seems to recognise only religious objections. Besides, the provision can be nullified by Parliament.

The Laender or "states" of South Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemberg-Baden and Berlin have gone further. In Bavaria, for example, "no citizen can be forced to undertake military service or take part in war industries."

\*

SCPTICISM about militarism, as distinguished from pacifism, is widespread in post-war Germany. This lukewarmness continues in spite of the fact that the Allies have begun to talk about rebuilding German armies.

Though the German army question has been very much alive in military circles in the U.S., there have been official denials, and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer was warned to throttle down such discussion. Perhaps indiscreetly, Adenauer ignored this, however, and put his finger on a programme being quietly considered when he outlined how Germans should be recruited. He said they should be, not mercenaries for a foreign army, but "equals" in a German contingent of the Western forces.

Earlier, Adenauer had indicated outright opposition to a new army, and declared it would only revive militaristic memories "which must disappear forever." In doing so, Adenauer was a good politician, for German opinion is overwhelmingly opposed to a new army.

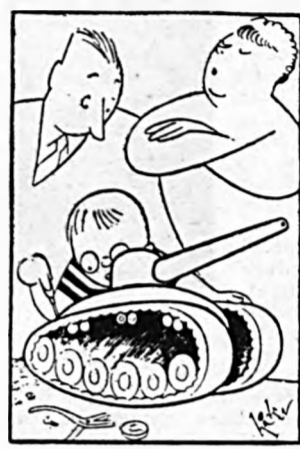
The West German press has supported this view. The Allgemeine Zeitung of

Frankfurt for example, said in a strong front-page editorial:

"The simple truth is, all talk of a possible re-militarisation of Germany arouses deep anxiety in the hearts of millions of German mothers and a passionate repugnance in millions of German young men."

\*

THE FRANKFURT Rundschau reported a poll showing that 60.2 per cent. of



Germans said they wanted no more military service under any conditions. German pollsters for the American High Commission also found military enthusiasm lacking. An overwhelming majority of 3,800 questioned said they would rather have their boys become businessmen than army officers!

In Berlin, a "children's parliament" even voted unanimously that military toys should be boycotted.

U.S. High Commissioner John J. McCloy, declaring that healthy tendencies far outweigh reported nationalist trends, asserted last month the "bulk of the German people have set their faces" against militarism. Still, some Europeans reason that a German army, if made trustworthy, could be "a stabilising factor" internally and "a protective barrier" against Russia. To countless Germans, however, all that is "old stuff" without appeal today. The West, having won a crusade to abolish military ideas in Germany, is sometimes dismayed at its success.

## MUST THEY SPEND THEIR YOUTH IN GAOL?

Dutch mother's appeal for COs serving long sentences

A NUMBER of Dutch conscientious objectors have been sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment for refusal to undertake military service under Dutch conscription laws.

From an Amsterdam mother comes the following appeal:

"I would like to ask whether your movement would not protest to the Dutch Government so that the young people, who are now wasting away their young lives in prison after having suffered already during five years of occupation, could either be liberated or have their sentences reduced."

"I write in the name of parents and women whose sons, husbands, or fiancés are wrongly imprisoned."

The writer is the foster mother of Gerrit Heinsius, one of the Dutch COs listed in Peace News on Dec 16, 1949 as being in prison for Christmas. He is likely to spend another three Christmases behind prison bars along with many other COs unless public opinion throughout the world is roused on this issue.

## Television interviews Vera Brittain

"GANDHI is the great figure of today in India—and for the future," said Vera Brittain, Peace Pledge Union Chairman and well-known novelist, in a televised interview on Wednesday last week.

She spoke of the Gandhi Memorial Conference which took her to India recently and her impression that with freedom had come the first opportunity for real friendship between Indians and the people of this country.

Miss Brittain's necessarily brief word-sketches of things seen in India showed the writer's power of observing and selecting the evocative incident—but how Gandhi would have disliked the programme's film-deep interest in everything and its constant change of topic.

R.W.

DENMARK: An invitation has been sent to the Defence Minister in the Danish Government to attend the Annual General Meeting on April 22 and 23 of the Danish section of the War Resisters' International. "But so far (a month after the invitation) he has not deigned to reply" comments the monthly journal "Pacifisten" drily.

## A YEAR WITHOUT AN ARMY

Costa Rica is doing fine

Dec. 1, 1948

President abolishes Army, declaring that "a peace-loving country has no need of one." Army HQ given to Ministry of Education for conversion into a museum.

Dec. 11, 1949

Dispute with Nicaragua over "invasion" of Costa Rica by "Communists" from the former country. Treaty of Rio de Janeiro invoked and Commission of Enquiry set up.

Feb. 21, 1949

Costa Rica and Nicaragua sign pact of friendship after agreeing to peaceful settlement of their dispute.

Jan. 23, 1950

The U.S. magazine Time publishes the following report on life in Costa Rica:

"In San José last week, Costa Ricans once again could boast that their country's schoolmasters outnumber their soldiers. This happy state of affairs had been accomplished by the simple method of abolishing the army."

"And why not? The revolution of 1948 was long past; the 18 months of junta bossed reconstruction were over. Under Otilio Ulate, who was installed last November in the presidency to which he was elected just before the 1948 uprising, the little (pop. 813,000) Central American republic was fast winning back its old reputation for peace and progress."

"Ulate resumed the presidential custom of walking to the San José post office every day to get his mail. He also walked to work. Coming out of his two-story stucco house on the capital's north side one day last week, he struck out as usual past the corner grocery and crossed the Parque Morazan toward the palace. In the park, a fat waiter passed him. Buenos días, Don Otilio, said the waiter. The president of Costa Rica tipped his hat."

"One evening, passing up a Club Unión reception, the President took in the dancing in the Parque Central. As he sat on a park bench watching the capital's famously handsome señoritas walk by arm in arm, some drunks raised a cheer for the government's bitterest enemy, exiled ex-President Rafael Calderón Guardia. Ulate forbade their arrest. 'Let them viva whom they wish,' he said."

## THE GHENT CONFERENCE

### Another step towards World Government

From HAROLD S. BIDMEAD

REPRESENTATIVES from Australia, Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Britain, Ceylon, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Italy, Israel, Luxembourg, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA and India recently met in Ghent, Belgium, to plan the Peoples' World Constituent Assembly to draft a constitution of world government.

In the minds of many of them the venue is already fixed—Geneva the date, December 30, 1950.

Others consider that "Geneva" may mislead the public into imagining that an international federation would be another league; they insist on the vital distinction between a debating society, like the United Nations, and a government.

A tiny few are suggesting postponing the Constituent Assembly, not because the time is not ripe, but to let the world catch up with events. But most are aware of the danger that if mankind does not soon abolish war, war will abolish mankind.

In Stockholm last summer the World Movement for World Federal Government appointed a Steering Committee to prepare for the World Constituent Assembly. The Ghent conference was a symptom of rank and file impatience at official delays. However, the blessing of the Chairman of the Steering Committee, Mr. Henry Osborne, MP, was read in plenary session.

Fyke Farmer, initiator of a Tennessee law authorising elections of delegates to the World Constituent Assembly, announced the introduction of a similar bill in Kentucky. Mr. Diedisheim (France) reported on a similar draft bill in France; Mr. Dreze, Belgian MP, on the one in Belgium, mentioning the pilot elections at Nivelles (71 per cent. voted, 96 per cent. in favour).

Comparing federalism to aviation, Elizabeth Mann Borgese said that the Ghent conference meant that world government was at last "airborne." Another delegate thought it would start a chain reaction of peace which in the next few months would gather sufficient power to exorcise war.

## PPU MEETINGS IN IRELAND

### The moral answer to war

WHAT "broke Britain as a first-class Power" was the effort expended in two World Wars during one generation, Stuart Morris, general secretary of the Peace Pledge Union, told a meeting in the Belfast Friends' Meeting House last week.

In terms of power politics Britain could never again lead the world, for how insignificant she was compared to the USA or the USSR, he commented; but she could have a place in the world better than she had ever held before.

"Pacifism stands for total disarmament not just a reduction in armaments," he declared. "It stands for this by agreement, of course, if you can do it. But hasn't someone always got to make the first move especially in this vicious circle of fear and suspicion? Somebody is wanted today with sufficient moral courage and enterprise to break in on that circle and take the first step."

If in spite of disarmament, aggression still came the pacifist answer was the resistance of aggression which was non-violent, such as was practised so successfully by Gandhi in India. That was the moral answer to war.

The Belfast meeting was sympathetically reported in the Press.

## PICTORIAL CHARTS

"Let the Figures Speak" is a gallant attempt to get the facts and figures of Britain's economic position over to the "average man."

The effect of the rising cost of defence—"guns versus homes"—is not overlooked but the kind of world presented as an alternative to atomic destruction is unlikely to inspire simple-lifers nor will the book appeal to those who prefer the pages of the Economist to those of the Daily Mirror.

\* Pictorial Charts, 62 The Broadway, W.5., 1s.

## review page

## IS PEACE A MYTH TOO?

Myths of War, by Marie Bonaparte. Imago Publishing Co., 10s. 6d.

THIS is a necessary book. It is time that we became better acquainted with the origins, in the human mind, of such beliefs as that of the Devil-Jew.

The chapter which bears this title, "The Devil Jew," is the most valuable chapter in the book. It describes Hitler's own conversion to anti-Semitism, and the part which hatred of the Jews played in building up the modern Fascist state.

Earlier chapters purport to reveal the psychological explanation of certain stories and anecdotes which were current during the recent war. For example:

*A man has a breakdown on the Paris-Soissons road. While tinkering with his engine, another car stops, and one of the occupants gets out, and enquires if he can help. Thinking he can manage alone, the man thanks him and refuses, but noticing that the other speaks with an accent, asks his nationality.*

*"I'm a German."*

*"How will it turn out?" asks the Frenchman.*

*"Oh, it won't last much longer" replies the other.*

*"Really—and Hitler?"*

*"Hitler will be dead very soon now, and that's as true as that you'll be starting up in a minute, that you'll be stopped at a level crossing to take an injured woman to the nearest hospital and that she'll die on the way."*

*The prediction was fulfilled in every particular.*

Marie Bonaparte maintains that this story and variations of this and other stories with a predictive element were current in all the belligerent countries, although I personally cannot recall having heard any of the stories which are quoted. Marie Bonaparte gives a very detailed explanation of this, and other myths, an explanation which, although quite coherent for the layman, will perhaps best be appreciated by those with some knowledge of psycho-analysis.

The psychological origins of wars have not been written about very authoritatively, and therefore this book will be welcomed by pacifists, and others. However, one reaches the closing sentence with a very great shock:

*Thus, this second League of Nations, should it be raised, is doubtless once more doomed to illustrate how mythical is that great mirage of which humanity, despite its ineradicable instincts of aggression and conquest, still dreams at weary moments: the supreme myth of peace, universal, everlasting.*

In other words, the myth of peace can be explained as one of the many myths of war, and presumably cured in the consulting room of the psychiatrist. It is perhaps understandable that those who make a study of the deep and, as yet, almost uncharted waters of the human mind should become to a certain extent cynical.

However, if peace too, is a myth, existing only in the presumably warped minds of those who watch and hope for it, there is little point in trying to explain the myths of war.

JOHN VINCENT

## A recent pamphlet

The Federation of the World, by Harold S. Bidmead. C8vo. 8pp. (Author, 33, Chesham Avenue, Bromley, Kent. 3d.)

WHEN I was at school our drawing-master would set us working and then come round to criticise each effort. Sometimes he would advise alterations, sometimes make them himself, and sometimes, in hopeless cases, growl, "Rub it all out and start again."

That, briefly, is Mr. Bidmead's advice to those who are trying to make the United Nations look like the Parliament of Man.

With wit and humour, sarcasm, analogy and a little logic his pamphlet launches a vigorous attack on the present constitution of UN. It is, he declares, nonsense to say that UNO is a step in the right direction. There is such a thing as trying to leap an abyss in two leaps, and even a step in the right direction is futile if progress is obviously so slow that one cannot possibly arrive in time. The setting up of a league is, however, a step in the wrong direction, a step from world anarchy to legalised world anarchy.

The only hope, for which there is still time, is to consign to the limbo where it belongs the perverted principle of "a league of sovereign governments" and to begin to form a world-wide international government.

T.R.D.

## WINSTON CHURCHILL, IN WAR AND PEACE

A new critical biography by EMRYS HUGHES M.P.

250 Pages Illustrated. Price 2s. 6d.

UNITY PUBLISHING CO., LTD.

26 Civic Street, Glasgow, C.4

## A TEXT BOOK FOR PEACE MAKERS

Dr. A. K. JAMESON reviews another "pacifist classic" for readers under twenty years of age. "The Preparation of Peace" is out of print but available at Dick Sheppard House Library, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1, and most large public libraries

The Preparation of Peace, by Laurence Housman. Cape, 1941 (out of print).

IF the temple of peace is to be erected, there must be much preliminary clearing of the ground.

This collection of a dozen or so essays contributes to the clearance by examining a number of the obstacles to peace which exist in the human mind: mistaken beliefs, wrong attitudes, old prejudices, which must be got rid of before the building of peace can be begun.

So long as men go on crying that human nature never changes there can be no hope of progress. That cry is in effect a denial of the doctrine of free will, an assertion that man's will is thwarted by human nature which never changes. The falseness of this is evident from the sheer fact that man has evolved from the animal and has developed ideals in the light of which he establishes values, chooses among them, and brings about what he chooses.

The word "extremists" has come to be applied solely to those who advocate extreme methods of change. Yet those who resist all change are just as extreme in the opposite direction and they go in the face of the primary law of life: what is unable to change in response to changing environment, whether physical or moral, is doomed, like those vast primeval monsters who became extinct because they could not adapt themselves to a world in which their particular form of food became less abundant. But practices which cannot be justified at the bar of the intellect or of conscience are tolerated from habit and average minds protest more against new theory than old practice.

Christianity has suffered great detriment because the authorities of the church have insisted on regarding the narrow-minded, vindictive, tribal god of the Old Testament as identical with the New Testament God of justice and mercy, the loving Father of all mankind. For when Christianity was adopted as the state religion it was by appeal to the former conception of God that all the horrors of religious intolerance and persecution were let loose on the world and war was justified. When an Archbishop of Canterbury could pronounce that "The sword is the ministry of God for the protection of the people" it is obvious that he was not thinking in terms of the God known to Christ.

Indeed, all our thinking on the subject

## Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, March 22, 1940

For having copies of a pamphlet, in which he had declared that "in our barracks boys of 18 and 19 years are systematically trained for the vilest methods of murder," a Dutch anti-militarist was charged with deliberately insulting public authority and fined 40 florins with the option of 20 days' imprisonment. He is Dr. Hugenholz, Secretary of the Church and Peace Society of Christian Anti-Militarists.

A "Peace Scare" seized the New York Stock Exchange last night, causing considerable selling.

Prices declined one to two points, especially in steel securities and the so-called "war securities."

The movement was based on rumours spreading from Europe, none of which could be confirmed.

—Daily Herald, March 16, 1940

## BRINGING WHAT THINGS HOME TO THEM

Sir Warren Fisher, North-Western Regional Commissioner, speaking at a luncheon last Friday, urged that "this was a war of religion and unless we were as convinced of the truth of the principles underlying the Sermon on the Mount as were the Prussians about their own hellish doctrine of brutality, bestiality, bullying, fraud, cunning, and plunder we doomed ourselves to failure. . . . We must, if we were to deal with them, temporarily put aside our traditional methods and give them hell in every sort of way best calculated to bring things home to them. Large and frequent doses of their own medicine were essential if we were to make any impression on them."



LAURENCE HOUSMAN

of justice to individuals or to nations has been distorted by the false notion—based again on the Old Testament—that justice must be stern, which in practice means vindictive, biased and unjust.

What justice was there in the continuance of the blockade against Germany after the end of the fighting in the 1914-18 war, or in the bombing of defenceless villages on the North-West frontier of India?

Justice untempered by mercy produces the opposite effect to that aimed at; it merely hardens the criminal and prevents his rehabilitation as a useful member of society; it is merely panic self-protection.

Many actions not coming under the law are far worse than those for which men are sent to prison. Society will never be reformed nor will peace come until every individual realises his moral—apart from his legal—responsibility for the consequences of his actions. The present economic system makes it easy for individuals to forget this. "If Christianity is ever to come true, there must be in its social system no separation of interests: the well-being of each one must be indivisible from the well-being of all."

Prayer has always been a fundamental impulse of the human heart and it has great power over the mind, not as evoking intervention by some supernatural being, but as releasing vital energy in the individual. "Will-power expressed through prayer is no security that a man will do right: it is only a security that he will do what he means to do with more determination and courage and conviction." Man is the arbiter of his destiny and if he desires peace with sufficient intensity he will get it.

When men think clearly on these and other similar matters which are treated of in these essays, it will be possible to make some progress in attaining peace, but not till then.

## WALES HONOURS A PACIFIST PIONEER

Samuel Roberts Llanbrynmair, by Glanmor Williams. In English and Welsh, University of Wales Press Board, 2s. 6d.

THE name of the Rev. Samuel Roberts of Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, is little known to pacifists outside Wales. Yet few have made a greater contribution to the cause of peace.

Born in 1800 (this book celebrates the 150th anniversary of his birth) he devoted the 85 years of his life to peace and social reform, "keeping the faith to the end through good times and evil."

In 1827 he became minister of his native Independent church at Llanbrynmair where he remained until 1857 when he emigrated to Tennessee to found a Welsh colony. Caught by the Civil War, he remained there for ten years, returning in 1867 to Wales for the rest of his life. He died in 1885.

In 1843 he founded Y Cronic, a three-halfpenny monthly magazine of which over a million copies were sold in twelve years. In it and in other journals, and from many platforms, he advocated reforms in local and public government, agriculture, transport, the postal service—and above all the promotion of peace.

It is held that his advocacy of penny postage preceded that of Sir Rowland Hill. His schemes for subways in large cities, sewage disposal, the treatment of half-castes, etc., were generations ahead of his time: indeed several of the reforms he advocated have yet to become law.

But his greatest contribution was in the cause of peace. "There never was a good war," he maintained, "nor a poor peace." As a friend of Henry Richard, Richard Cobden, Elihu Burritt and other well-known figures of the peace movement, we find him in the 1850 Peace Conference at Frankfurt. His writings during the Crimean War brought pacifist principles consistently before the public, while he devoted his unrivalled talents to raise money for the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the war.

During his sojourn in the United States he was faced with a decision well-known to pacifists. As a lifelong advocate of the abolition of slavery, should he condone a war one of the purposes of which was to "free slaves"? His attitude can be summarised in his statement: "Slavery and war are twin devils: it is madness to employ war to banish slavery." He advocated civilised and Christian means of settling all conflicts. In the heat of the Civil War, his ideas were misrepresented and he was denounced as a coward. Public opinion, however, is fickle and when he returned to Wales he was presented with a national testimonial of £1,245.

Samuel Roberts probably influenced public opinion in Wales more than any other Welshman of his century, preparing the

## We thought the Spring was ours

For Your To-morrow, An Anthology of Poetry written by young men from English Public Schools who fell in the World War, 1939-1945. Geoffrey Cumberlege and Oxford University Press, 7s. 6d.

THIS is a remarkable volume of fine achievement and yet finer promise. That promise will never be fulfilled; the 23 authors, all in their twenties, are dead.

A sense of fatality hangs over so many of these verses that we might take as a text for all, David Raikes' line "We thought the Spring was ours, but we were wrong."

Irresistible comparisons with the poets of an earlier war present themselves, and while Geraint Jones and others write in the Rupert Brooke tradition, there is more intensely personal subjectivity in these poems than in their forerunners.

Not all are war poems and many are fragmentary; evocative of peace and love, and the English countryside; several, notably Frank Thompson's, show a successfully adapted classical influence. His line—"They died in a war of other's making"—strikes at our hearts.

Sydney Keyes, whose work has already received public acclaim, has some lovely poems, "Remember Your Lovers" and several in the Donne tradition among them, while Jonathon Wilson's "Farewell To A Friend" has a subtle and original rhythm varied and echoed in the other poems that represent him here, one of the most clear-cut being "My Soul, my Diamond of Self."

Several of the young poets, like Drummond Allison, show a teeming over of ideas clothed in fresh words, but lacking the maturity which corrects the over-hasty ear. Graves, Bourne, Meikle and Joly all have something to contribute; I should like to comment on each one of the 23 if there were space to do them justice.

The volume is indeed worth buying and pondering. T. A. Mellon's lines enfold the deeply moving and tragic message of the book:—

*Twenty-one years, not disillusioned yet,  
Why should I fear to die?*

Perhaps it is a companion thought to our disenchanting older poet, A. E. Housman, when he wrote:—

*Life to be sure is nothing much to lose,  
But young men think it is, and we were young.*

PHYLLIS VALLANCE

ground for the later work of Thomas Rees-John Morgan Jones, George M. Ll. Davies and others. It is fitting that his story

—By Dr. Iorwerth C. Peate—

whose work as head of the Folk Department of the National Museum of Wales has made it known throughout the world. The display rooms in the building of Cathays Park, Cardiff have fascinated many thousands of visitors, and an elaborate permanent exhibition of distinctive Welsh architecture is now being developed under his direction in the grounds of St. Fagans Castle.

should be told so admirably in this work sponsored by the University of Wales Press. I commend it to all readers.

## Toward Industrial Community

A PRIVATE firm (that of Messrs. Farmer and Sons Ltd.) on Christian grounds is endeavouring to transform the business into a "Welfare Society" owned by all its personnel as an industrial community. "Christian Principles in Industry" is the title of the shilling booklet describing this sincere venture, the booklet being issued by the firm from Edgware Road, W.2.

Now that the old challenge to private ownership has become dominant, it is certainly good that business men who believe in a sphere for free association should strive to make ownership social. Mr. Seeborn Rowntree, however, in his Foreword, claims for this experiment that it is unique in the history of industry. Nearly two centuries of co-operative experiment and achievement in this country alone, may not dispute the claim in every detail, but even the failures contain lessons of which all new experimenters should be aware. If the Edgware Road beginning consciously were being made where the co-operative movement stops, one would be still more hopeful for its future.

One feature of the Farmer scheme is new and to be welcomed. Under trade union pressure, many co-operative societies compel their employees to be trade union members. When this change first took place, workers with conscientious objections were discharged. The Farmers experiment allows conscientious objection to be pleaded. If it is sustained the worker keeps his place, subject to paying into a provident fund the equivalent of his trade union subscription. Good in itself, the rule suggests a real effort to solve inescapable problems.

PERCY REDFERN

# the OWLGLASS— ours Dirty work on the sea-shore

I WISH to bring to the notice of all freedom-lovers, humanitarians and opponents of blood-sports the case of the persecuted scientist.

He came across it the other day in the Sunday Pictorial, which didn't seem to realise how serious it was. Here is the tragedy:

Professor Harold Urey, Nobel Prize-winner, played an important part in the development of the atom bomb. Urey, aged 57, says he'd much rather be left alone to collect sea-shells. They give him a clue to the earth's climatic changes. It is an unhappy comment on our civilisation that men who prefer peaceful pursuits must give their brains to the science of destruction.

The operative word is "must."

WHAT, one may ask, is going on here? A reign of terror on the wrong side of the Curtain? Let us reconstruct the tragedy from this bare report:

There's a simple scientist seeking sea-shells on the shore—the very picture of happy innocence. Suddenly a harsh voice breaks in upon his peaceful pursuit. "Hey! Urey! the atom-buster!" Startled, he looks up and sees an armed guard headed by a sergeant holding a pair of handcuffs.

"Yes," he replies; "but..." "Right," says the sergeant. "Shall I put these on you or are you gonna come quiet?"

Considered, the distinguished scientist drops his bucket and spade and follows the guard. He is taken before a tribunal and told that, in view of his reputation as an atom-splitting ace, the State requires his services for making atom-bombs.

The Professor is horrified. "Bombs!" he cries. "But I couldn't. I prefer peaceful pursuits. I want to seek sea-shells on the beach-sh..." "Shush!" says the President of the Tribunal. "You aren't being asked what you want to do. You're being told what you must do. There's a cold war on. Do you consent, or must we use other methods?"

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## Notes for your Diary

This is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent to us. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and Secretary's address)—preferably in order and style.

**Friday, March 24**  
LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens: Group Policy Meeting; PPU.

**Saturday, March 25**  
SOUTHAMPTON: 7.30 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Dr. A. D. Belden on "The Church can stop Atomic War—a New Plan"; Public Meeting.

**Sunday, March 26**  
NOTTINGHAM: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Conference: "The Path of Peace"; Society of Friends.

**Monday, March 27**  
LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. Palais de Danse, 11, Gower Street; Open-air meeting; PPU.

**Thursday, March 30**  
LONDON, W.C.2: 12.30 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air Meeting; Sybil Morris; PPU.

**Friday, March 31**  
LONDON, W.C.1: 7.30 p.m. 8 Endsleigh Gardens; Bernard Withers on "Law and Society"; Central London PPU.

**Saturday, April 1**  
SOUTHAMPTON: 7 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Dr. A. D. Belden on "The Church can stop Atomic War—a New Plan"; Public Meeting.

**Sunday, April 2**  
WELWYN GARDEN CITY: 6.30 p.m. Friends Meeting House; Eric S. Tucker on "Christian Pacifism in World Affairs"; Society of Friends.

**Monday, April 3**  
HOLLOWAY: 8 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 404 Camden Road, Holloway; Racial Discrimination: Native speakers from South Africa, West Africa, West Indies; Islington Peace Group (PPU).

**Tuesday, April 4**  
TOWER HILL: 1 p.m. Open-air meeting; Gwyneth Anderson and Bryan Anstey; PPU.

**Wednesday, April 5**  
DULWICH: 8 p.m. Dulwich Grove Congregational Church; "Peace through Education"; PPU.

THE professor quells his rising hysteria. He draws himself up and faces his captors. "I refuse," he says quietly. "I am a she-sell searcher, not a shiv-I mean not a civilisation-smasher."

The President calls the guard. "Bung this guy in the cooler," he says. "He wants to think things over."

What went on behind the door of that shell-seeker's cell we do not know. American ideas of justice are not the same as ours. There are ugly tales of third degree—and worse. All we know is that soon afterwards Prof Urey, 57, was quietly and unprotestingly working on atom bombs, and I am not in a position either to confirm or deny the rumour that his hair had gone white in the night.

THAT, in any case, is the story I prefer. Honesty compels me to admit, however, that there is an alternative interpretation of the word "must."

It may be that in a free country there is no legal compulsion for scientists to give their brains to destruction. The question is—if a scientist wants to follow peaceful pursuits, who's stopping him?

It is a disturbing thought—but is it possible that there are scientists who have brains and nothing else?

Such creatures are zoologically possible, we know. Some of the higher apes, like Consul, the Almost Human, have achieved remarkable mental and manual proficiency without possessing the moral and critical faculty which enables them to judge the purpose and consequences of their clever tricks.

To such sub-human creatures, however intelligent, the "must" or compulsion consists in the mere ability to do the trick in question. Having no moral judgment, it would feel that whatever it can do it must do, otherwise its simple mind would suffer a sense of frustration.

I should not like to think, however, that any of our distinguished, democratic scientists were sub-human. So, lacking further evidence, I shall stick to the story that Nobel Prize-winners only consent to prepare the means to destroy civilisation under threat of torture.

## ITALIAN STUDENT RESISTS CALL-UP Court Martial refuse to hear defence witness

AFTER what has been described by an Italian newspaper as "a scandalous trial," Elevoine Santi, 26-year-old conscientious objector, has been sentenced by a Naples Court Martial to one year's imprisonment for refusing military service.

Italy does not recognise conscientious objection to military service. Santi may write only two letters monthly.

Santi was a student of architecture at Bologna University. After serving in various "pick-and-shovel-peacemaking" projects with the Italian section of International Voluntary Service for Peace he decided to render himself liable for call-up by ceasing his studies.

### "A pick-and-shovel peacemaker"

He informed the War Ministry of his intentions and offered to work in an institution for boys at Modena.

In last year's trial of Pietro Pinna, another Italian CO, laws governing offences committed "for reasons of moral and social value" were invoked and Pinna was given a suspended sentence. This former trial took place in the same Court which later refused to grant these benefits to Elevoine Santi.

"The position of our friends in Italy is becoming more difficult," writes Grace Beaton of WRI Headquarters. "They feel that this severe penalty imposed on Santi and the fact that support for the proposed Bill recognising conscientious objection may not be approved by Parliament, is due to fear of Communism."

"It is the same prejudice which has been met by our people in so many countries, namely, that those refusing to undertake military duties are thought to be supporting Moscow."

Gaol and fine for two British peace workers.—page one.

—WRI News Service and L'Incontro

SWEDEN: The Swedish World Peace Mission has arranged to hold its annual conference at Södertälje, just south of Stockholm, on July 15 and 16 this year. Having felt a call to devote all his energies to the promotion of peace Pastor John Berg has given up a prosperous living to become Travelling Representative of the Peace Mission.

## A Special Display

of books and pamphlets and leaflets on pacifism, and kindred topics will be on sale at the

**PPU Central Hall Meeting**  
from 6.30 p.m. onwards on  
**Monday, 27th March**

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When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date. We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

### MEETINGS

**WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1.** (Bond St. Tube), Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

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**ECONOMY LABELS** for re-using envelopes. Large, good quality, cheap; publishing Peace News. Post free, for 1s., 50; 1s. 9d., 100; 15s., 1,000. Also plain economy labels 1s., 100; 8s. 6d., 1,000 post free. Peace News, Ltd., 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

### LITERATURE, &c.

**QUAKERISM** Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practice of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

**THE LATEST** books, pamphlets and periodicals (whether or not reviewed in Peace News) are always available from your own Booksellers, Housmans Bookshop, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4. Send s.a.e. for latest list

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## Crusade for World Gov't elects new Council

The following Crusade for World Government supporters will comprise the 1950 National Executive Committee:

**ARMSTRONG, Patrick N., B.A.**, Worked for UNRRA in Italy and in the Middle East.

**BELDEN, Dr. A. D., B.D., D.D.** General Director of Pax Christi League, Congregational Minister. Member of the Peace Pledge Union.

**COHEN, L. J., M.A.**, assistant in Department of Philosophy at Edinburgh University. Served in Foreign Office during war.

**FITZGERALD, Alderman John.** County Councillor. Secretary of Proportional Representation Society.

**HOGBEN, Professor Lancelot, M.A., D.S.C., F.R.S.** Professor of Medical Statistics at Birmingham University.

**HOWARD, Michael**, Publisher's representative. Actively interested in federation since 1939. National Organising Secretary of Crusade, October 1948 to October 1949.

**HOYLAND, John, M.A., F.R.Hist.S.** Tutor and lecturer, Woodbrook College, Birmingham. Relief and educational worker in England, Spain, Finland, etc.

**KRAUS, Gerry.** Secretary of old National Executive Committee. Member of the London Executive Committee. Editor of "Across Frontiers."

**MILLINGTON, Ernest R., D.F.C., M.P.** for Chelmsford in last House. National Vice-President of Federal Union and National Peace Council.

**MORRIS, Stuart, M.A.** National Secretary of Peace Pledge Union. Secretary of Crusade Candidates' Association. Director of Peace News, Ltd.

**NUTLEY, Jack K.**, Executive of South Eastern Council of N.U.R. Executive, West Kent F.O.R. Peace Pledge Union member.

**RANKIN, John, M.P.**

**SHARMAN, Mrs. E. K.** Secretary of Birmingham Women's Crusade Council.

**SMITH, Len.** Member of I.L.P.

**THOMAS, George, M.P.** Executive member of N.U.T., 1941-45.

On instructions from the National Council of the Peace Pledge Union, the Directors of Sheppard Press Limited have disposed of the business. The new Proprietors offer the

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## Up and doing!

## CAN WE DO IT AGAIN!

IT is nearly ten years since the sale newsagents imposed their wartime ban on Peace News. What energy and enterprise the pacifist movement put into shaping its own distributing organisation!—an organisation that played a vital part in sustaining pacifists in those difficult years. After a catastrophic drop from 30,000 to under 10,000, sales were speedily built up to nearly 20,000 each week throughout the war years.

Now a less dramatic but more urgent challenge faces the 10,000 remaining Peace News readers. Can we, whilst there is yet peace, help steer the world away from further war? Can we, without the stimulus of a battling world, build up a new and effective peace propaganda organisation? If every reader took 12 copies to sell to others, 120,000 every week, what an impact we could make!

Since 1945 we have tended to leave the sale of Peace News to the labour saving device of trade distribution. But it won't work—50 per cent. of our readers have been lost in five years. Of course we must encourage shops to sell the paper, and display it too, but winning new supporters to our point of view, bringing all peace lovers into the Peace News fold, will only be done by pacifists, by you and me.

The new eight page Peace News, commencing on April 28 provides the occasion for a great new circulation effort. We must gain 2,500 new readers to cover the extra cost, then 5,000 in all to operate the paper without loss. Watch out for the dates of our special Peace News meetings, meantime start now to find more PN readers every week. May we depend on you to sell 12 each week from April 28?

Circulation last week 9,300 copies.

H.F.M.

## H-Bomb: 7-day fasts

A REPORT on the public meeting called by Rev. S. S. Waterson, the Bexhill vicar who has secured nation-wide support for his H-bomb fast plan announced in last week's Peace News, will appear next week.

The "Call to a Seven-Day Fast for Peace" by American pacifists to be held in Washington, DC, beginning at midnight April 1 and ending on Easter morning declares that the "decision of the United States government to proceed with the manufacture of the hydrogen bomb precipitates a deep and terrible crisis." The signers state that "we cannot simply go on in our accustomed ways, or be satisfied with merely continuing the things we have been doing."

It is hoped that about 50 persons will engage in the U.S. fast. They will live together for the week at 1867 Kalorama Road, Washington.

## WOOLWICH POSTSCRIPT

By FRANK HANCOCK

*"No-More-War" Socialist candidate for East Woolwich at the General Election*

EAST WOOLWICH contest was not the complete fiasco that it must seem to have been to those who took no part in it. Those who were in it know the immense amount of work put in—and good work, too, good propaganda.

Our clear and uncompromising anti-war election address sent to 53,000 people was, admittedly, the best one sent out.

This was followed by 10,000 copies of an Election Broadsheet with excellent matter in it. Thousands of leaflets went out in the early days of the contest, before they were regarded as waste paper.

For eight weeks we carried on a poster campaign; 150 new bills with arresting slogans every week.

From one small committee-room (against Labour's 16), we coped with the prodigious task of addressing 35,000 envelopes, and planning and carrying out a very intensive campaign. PPUers came along in good numbers, and worked and worked and worked. We were amazed at the quiet efficient service they gave, night after night.

Our poorly attended meetings warned us a fortnight before of the coming defeat.

## WHAT PEACE MEANS TO BRITAIN

Booklet published by The Pictorial Charts Unit.



FROM ANY W. H. SMITH'S BOOKSHOP

## Seretse affair

'HAS DESTROYED CONFIDENCE OF MILLIONS'—R. W. Sorensen, MP

THE British Government's action in the Seretse Khama affair had, "almost overnight and temporarily at least," destroyed the growing confidence of millions of black and coloured people in the intentions of Britain, declared the Rev. R. Sorensen, MP, speaking last Saturday at a conference organised by the South Notts Area of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

"It is a great tragedy, and I hope that the unfortunate position will be modified in the course of time and that we shall be able to bring back into friendship those who are drawn into hostility, but certainly to all of us who have been trying for years to establish this creative peace with our coloured brethren it has been a very heavy blow indeed," added Mr. Sorensen.

Replying later to a question on the same subject, the speaker said there were two sides to the question, and he went on to say that the motives of the British Government in taking the action it did were good, although he believed its conclusions were false.

## Attempts at solving problem

Mr. Sorensen said he had himself made certain suggestions for solving the problem after interviews with Mr. Gordon-Walker, Minister for Commonwealth Relations, and Seretse Khama, and he believed that Seretse would be prepared to accept them.

In her attitude to the 60 million people living in the Colonial Empire, Britain could, he said, prove still further, as she had done in India, that she was making peace on the basis of justice and fraternity. "We want to make a new 'Pax Britannica' on the basis of mutual respect, goodwill and fraternity."

Britain's Colonial subjects must be given not only the means of governing themselves, but the means of living as we did. There were at present many people who were prepared to extend the franchise to the natives of Nigeria, for instance, but not willing to pay more for cocoa and other products from that area so that schools and hospitals might be built out there.

(Reports of Friends Peace Committee's Nottingham meeting and FOR's Merseyside meeting will appear next week).

## COMMUNISTS TO CALL A SECOND PEACE CONGRESS

THE Permanent Committee of the World Peace Congress are to hold a second Congress during the last quarter of 1950.

The Communist sponsored committee appeal to "all social and religious groups, to all workers in culture, and to all honest people who, regardless of their opinions as to the reasons for the present tense international situation, are alarmed about it and seriously wish to re-establish peaceful relations among nations."

As a basis for agreement they propose the prohibition of atomic weapons and condemnation of the first government to use them.

Sybil Morrison's

## CAMPAIGN COLUMN

*"Oh, wad some pow'r the giftie gie us  
To see ourselves as others see us!  
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,  
And foolish notion."*

—Robert Burns

SCENE: The steps of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London.

CHARACTERS: Peace Pledge Union Leaflet Distributor; Passer-by.

P-B. (taking leaflet): It isn't any use signing a peace pledge until every nation takes a pledge not to go to war.

LD: Would you teach your children that there is no use being honest until everyone is?

P-B: No, but that's different.

LD: Pacifists don't think so. Why do you think it is different?

P-B: Because we must protect ourselves. We must fight the Russians—they don't want peace—why, they won't agree even to an international control and inspection of atomic armaments.

LD: But the USA won't agree either; they refused to destroy their stockpile of atom bombs when Russia hadn't the secret.

P-B: But it wouldn't be safe to do that while Russia is threatening to dominate the world.

LD: Don't you think it may seem to the Russians that a great stock of bombs, the secret of which had not been revealed even when they were our allies, is a threat to them?

P-B: Well, if you put it like that. But (second thoughts) I suppose you are a Communist?

LD: No I'm a pacifist and I believe the survival of the human race may depend upon trying to see ourselves as others see us.

P-B: I wish it were as simple as that.

LD: Well, come to the Central Hall on the 27th and hear the pacifist case.

P-B: I think I will.

SCENE: Holborn Underground Station.

CHARACTERS: As before.

P-B: Vera Brittain? I didn't know she was a Communist!

LD: She isn't. What makes you think so?

P-B: Well! A peace meeting.

LD: Do you think only Communists are interested in peace?

P-B: No, I wouldn't say that, but they don't want a war with Russia.

LD: Do you want a war with Russia?

P-B: No, of course not.

LD: Well, what's wrong then, with not wanting a war with Russia?

P-B: It isn't a question of wanting—it may be forced on us and we must protect ourselves.

LD: The atom and hydrogen bombs won't protect us—there is no defence against them. We must try some other way.

P-B: Why not come and hear the case for another way at the Central Hall.

P-B: Perhaps I will.

SCENE: Victoria Station.

CHARACTERS: As before.

P-B: Peace! Let me tell you, Madam, the only way to get peace is to be prepared for war.

LD: Well, we have tried that way several times and we haven't got peace.

P-B: That's the fault of you pacifists with your "appeasement" and nonsense.

LD: Pacifists did not advocate "appeasement"; they advocated non-violent resistance to tyranny.

P-B: Good Lord—you mean you'd just lie down and get walked over?

LD: No, it doesn't mean that at all, but it would take about half-an-hour for me to explain it to you, and I want to get these leaflets into the hands of as many people as possible. Why don't you come along and hear the case?

P-B: Well, if you were going to speak I might.

LD: I am—don't miss it!

P-B: I won't!

These recorded conversations are only a few out of hundreds. The Central Hall holds thousands! It is for pacifists to see to it that the thousands are there.

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